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TEXT OF LETTER FROM ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT TO PAUL RUEGGER,  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE

9 November 1962

Dear Mr. Ruegger,

As you are about to return to Switzerland after several days of intensive and fruitful consultations at United Nations Headquarters, I wish to express to you my personal gratitude for the important service you and the International Committee of the Red Cross are rendering to the United Nations and the cause of peace.

My appreciation of this service is heightened by my realization that the favourable response of the International Committee of the Red Cross to my invitation was given despite the fact that the service the organisation was being called upon to provide was unusual and unprecedented in view of the traditional activities and those based on the Red Cross Conventions. I understand, however, that the Committee was inspired in its cooperative attitude by the resolutions adopted by International Red Cross Conferences of recent years encouraging the Red Cross to develop its efforts towards maintenance of peace.

I am sure that the willingness of the Committee, which has such a long and distinguished record of assistance to mankind in various humanitarian fields, was due to its recognition that the prevention of nuclear war must be a paramount concern of all of us.

Will you be so kind as to convey to the Committee the thanks of the United Nations for their fine attitude of cooperation in an hour of very grave need.

Sincerely yours,

U Thant  
Acting Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Paul Ruegger  
International Committee of the  
Red Cross Representative  
Geneva, Switzerland